GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1240
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25ᵗʰ JULY, 2018

TELECOM SERVICES IN UNVIABLE RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS

1240. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government for provision of telecom services in unviable rural and remote areas of the country;

(b)   the details of the villages connected with the telecom services under the said schemes/programmes so far across the country, State/UT-wise and scheme/ programme-wise;

(c)   the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized under the said schemes/programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme/ programme-wise; and

(d)   the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide telecom services in each village of the country along with the achievements thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a)   The details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government for the provision of telecom services in unviable rural and remote areas are:

(i)   **Scheme for Mobile Communication Services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected Areas**

    a.   LWE Phase I Project for providing the mobile connectivity in inhabited and uncovered villages in the LWE affected areas by setting up 2355 MHA identified towers. The sites were identified by MHA and implemented by BSNL. 2335 mobile towers are radiating.

    b.   LWE Phase II project for providing mobile connectivity in inhabited and uncovered villages in MHA identified 4072 tower locations was approved by cabinet on 23.05.2018. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for LWE phase II is under preparation. Implementation of the project will commence after selection of implementing agencies through competitive bidding process.

(ii)   **BharatNet –** BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner for providing broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs), (approx. 2,50,000), including those in LWE areas. As on 15.07.2018, a total of 2,83,708 km Optical Fibre Cable (covering 1,18,087 GPs) has been laid, and 1,13,091 Gram Panchayats have been made Service Ready in the country **(Annexure – A)**

(iii) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for Andaman & Nicobar Islands

a. Submarine OFC Connectivity between Mainland India (Chennai) and seven Andaman & Nicobar Islands is being implemented by BSNL. The agency for implementation has been selected and the timeline for completion of the project is 2 years from the award of work.

b. Scheme for enhancement of satellite bandwidth from 260 Mbps to 1 Gbps has been completed.

c. Scheme for enhancement of satellite bandwidth from 1 Gbps to 2 Gbps is under progress.

d. On 09.01.2018, Telecom Commission has approved revised proposal for provision of mobile services on 2G & 4G technology for installation of 214 mobile towers in identified uncovered villages and along National Highways in Andaman & Nicobar Islands for an estimated cost of Rs. 342.4 Cr

(iv) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Lakshadweep Islands

a. Ten new BTS installed and commissioned in Lakshadweep Islands for augmentation of 2G mobile coverage with EDGE BTS.

b. Satellite bandwidth for Lakshadweep Islands has been augmented from 102 Mbps to 318 Mbps.

(v) Plan for the North-Eastern Region (NER).

a. Under Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for NER, BSNL is installing 2817 mobile towers with minimal specification of 2G with EDGE technology for providing mobile coverage in uncovered villages of Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam with an estimated cost of Rs. 2258 Cr.

b. M/s Bharti Airtel Limited and M/s Bharti Hexcom Limited selected through tender process to install 2004 mobile towers with minimal specification of 2G with EDGE technology to cover villages and seamless coverage on National Highway in Rest of NER (except Meghalaya) with an estimated cost of Rs. 1656 Cr. The TSP can go for higher technology.

c. On 23.05.2018, Cabinet has approved revised proposal for provision of mobile services on 2G + 4G technology for installation of 2173 mobile towers in 2374 uncovered villages and along National Highways in the State of Meghalaya for an estimated cost of Rs. 3911 Cr.

d. Under CTDP NER, ring connectivity between State Capitals and respective District Headquarters (DHQ) and augmentation of transmission media has been planned for strengthening of transmission network for improving the reliability and redundancy.

(b) The details of Mobile Towers installed under LWE Phase I and LWE Phase II are detailed as per **Annexure –B & Annexure –C** respectively.

(c) Details as per **Annexure-D**

(d) DoT is in the process of identification of remaining uncovered / remote villages of the country through its field units. On identification of such uncovered villages, the plan for provision of telecom services will be formulated.

Status of the BharatNet as on 15.07.2018

Sr. No	State/UT	Cable laid (km)	GPs for which Cable laid	Service Ready GPs
1	Andaman & Nicobar	7	4	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3555	1046	800
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1424	550	24
4	Assam	4347	1520	1520
5	Bihar	14883	5725	5628
6	Chandigarh	19	13	13
7	Chhattisgarh	12886	4090	4039
8	Dadra& Nagar Haveli	68	21	21
9	Daman & Diu	26	18	17
10	Gujarat	13816	5789	4958
11	Haryana	11591	6123	6123
12	Himachal Pradesh	664	223	202
13	Jammu & Kashmir	549	284	227
14	Jharkhand	6566	2370	2060
15	Karnataka	13545	6201	6076
16	Kerala	830	1129	1129
17	Lakshadweep*	0	0	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	39116	12671	12644
19	Maharashtra	32594	14582	14004
20	Manipur	569	312	173
21	Meghalaya	663	253	122
22	Mizoram	650	109	19
23	Nagaland	1945	621	61
24	Odisha	10237	3665	3303
25	Puducherry	92	98	101
26	Punjab	12104	7732	7545
27	Rajasthan	25607	8392	8386
28	Sikkim	157	24	4
29	Tamil Nadu*	0	0	0
30	Telangana	5369	2047	2047
31	Tripura	1681	816	489
32	Uttar Pradesh	58364	27999	27843
33	Uttarakhand	3156	1524	1493
34	West Bengal	6628	2136	2020
Total		**283708**	**118087**	**113091**

* Under Bharat project, tri-partite MoU for free right of way (RoW) was to be signed with all the States/UTs. As per the MoU, States/UTs are required to provide free RoW for the BharatNet/NOFN project. Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep signed MoUs very late i.e. on 31.03.2017 & 18.07.2017 respectively. Now Tamil Nadu is being implemented under State led model and Lakshadweep through BSNL.

State-wise status of Mobile Towers installed in LWE Phase I scheme

Sr	State	No. of Total Locations identified by MHA	Additional 156 Sites	Total sites Under LWE Phase I	Radiating
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54	8	62	58
2.	Bihar	184	66	250	250
3.	Chhattisgarh	497	35	532	521
4.	Jharkhand	782	34	816	816
5.	Maharashtra	60	5	65	65
6.	Madhya Pradesh	22	0	22	22
7.	Odisha	253	8	261	256
8.	Telangana	173	0	173	173
9.	Uttar Pradesh	78	0	78	78
10.	West Bengal	96	0	96	96
	Total	2,199	156	2355	2335

State wise list of mobile tower locations under LWE Phase II:

	State	No of Districts	No. of Mobile Towers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	429
2.	Bihar	8	412
3.	Chhattisgarh	16	1028
4.	Jharkhand	21	1054
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1	26
6.	Maharashtra	2	136
7.	Odisha	18	483
8.	Telangana	14	118
9.	Uttar Pradesh	3	179
10.	West Bengal	5	207
	Total	96	4072

					Rs. in Crore
Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra			6.91	
2	BharatNet	2415.10	5600.00	6000.00	
3	Mobile Connectivity in Left Wing Extremism areas	617.05	280.68	710.90	177.36
4	Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELS)	0.53	1252.53		
5	Setting up of Wi-Fi Choupals at 5,000 Gram Panchayats by Common Service Centre		35.70	68.16	
6	Setting up of 25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots using the infrastructure of BSNL's telephone exchanges in rural areas			187.50	
7	Wi-Fi delivery model at 200 rural Railway Stations by M/s RailTel using their own backhaul, as a pilot project			7.39	0.42
8	Wi-Fi hotspots at 200 Gram Panchayats by BSNL using BharatNet backhaul, as a pilot project			2.81	
9	Augmentation, Creation and Management of Optical Fiber Network in Assam				0.77
10	Augmentation, Creation and Management of Optical Fiber Network in NE-I	3.95	14.48		
11	Augmentation, Creation and Management of Optical Fiber Network in NE-II		13.04		
12	Rural Wire Line Broadband	48.66	21.09	13.03	0.24
13	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in A & N Island	8.10			
14	Augmentation of Satellite Bandwidth in Lakshadweep		4.65		
15	Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme (Phase-I)	3.21	0.24		
16	Village Public Telephones in uncovered villages as per census 2001	2.78	4.23	2.03	0.01
17	Replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay Village Public Telephones	0.03			
18	Uncovered Villages under A&N			0.03	

Details of funds disbursed under various schemes of Universal Service Obligation Fund

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